

Media Release

Date: Friday 1 May 2009

Local companies take the lead for irrigation renewal

Contracts to the value of approximately \$10 million have been awarded to regional civil construction companies undertaking the second year of the irrigation modernisation in northern Victoria.

“Three of the four companies are regionally based businesses,” the CEO of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP) Murray Smith said “and we estimate that over 200 additional jobs will be created in the region during this year’s construction works.

Tenders have been awarded to Comdain Civil Constructions Pty Ltd (\$3 million – Pryamid-Boort) and J & C Reid Earthmoving Pty Ltd (almost \$1 million – Murray Valley). Both of these companies have already established offices in Shepparton.

Ward Brothers/Underground Constructions based in Rochester will work in the Rochester and Torrumbarry regions and their contract is valued at over \$4.5 million.

“Bilfinger Berger Services (Australia) Pty Ltd has been awarded the fourth tender and they will undertake civil construction works in the Central Goulburn region to the value of over \$1 million.

“This irrigation renewal project is a real stimulus package for the Goulburn Murray region and is a massive boost to employment as well as developing an automated irrigation delivery system. These companies are joining the local community and sourcing materials and staff in the region,” Mr Smith said.

During the winter irrigation shut down period from May - August contractors will work at over 750 sites and install 1000 automated regulator gates in the major delivery channels of this complex irrigation network in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

This irrigation modernisation will provide northern Victoria with an irrigation system that increases its efficiency from as low as 67 per cent to at least 85 per cent and provides a stimulus for new investment and jobs.

-end-

Media Contact:

Merrill Boyd
Executive Manager Communications
Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project
T: 0438 678 323
E: merrill.boyd@nvirp.com.au